

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 13-15 and 17-44 are pending application. The independent claims are Claims 13, 14, 17, 19, 21, 27, 33, 37, 41, and 42.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiners Garber and White for the cordial and productive interview of August 9, 2000. The Examiners' helpful comments and suggestions were instrumental in preparing this response.

Claims 13-15 and 17-44 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Kawamura and Olkin (both newly-cited) for the reasons detailed at pages 3-8 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses all art rejections.

As discussed at the interview, each of Independent Claims 13, 14, 17, 21, 27, 33, 37, and 41-44 recites a novel combination of structure and/or steps whereby, information exclusive to the user (see, for example, page 3, line 12 of the specification) is provided in advance of or before the image data or the voice data are generated for recording. While Kawamura is capable of attaching information such as P0

to a file name in response to a user selecting a photographing mode, Kawamura fails to disclose or suggest structure or function whereby information exclusive to the user is provided in advance of the recording of the image data or the voice data.

While Claim 24 (which recites exclusive user information) was rejected as being obvious over Kawamura and Olkin, Applicant respectfully submits that no persuasive suggestion or motivation has been supplied for combining these non-analogous references. Specifically, Kawamura relates to the camera art, but Olkin relates to the computer art. Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims recite structure and function that is fully patentable over the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

As also discussed at the interview, independent Claim 19 recites a novel combination of steps whereby the exclusive user attribute (to be appended to the image data or the voice data) is stored in the storage medium, and the change means changes the stored exclusive user attribute after an authentication operation is performed, where the

authentication operation takes place prior to the exclusive user attribute being appended to the image data or the voice data. In contrast, Olkin discloses authentication procedures for authenticating computer users, but fails to disclose authentication structure for use in recording image and/or voice data by using exclusive user information recorded in advance of any recording operation.

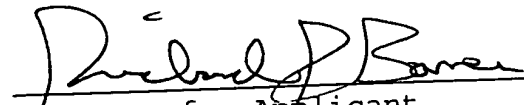
Accordingly, the salient claimed features of the present invention are nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance and a notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010.

All correspondence should continue to be directed to our  
below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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